

**R.E.: Public Health Committee; House Bill #6200; An act concerning the use of long-term antibiotics for the treatment of Lyme disease.**

My family and I fully support Bill #6200. My son, now aged 23, was seriously ill with chronic Lyme disease for seven years, from ages 14 to 21. He was absent from high school 85% of the time, got a GED, and is now—thankfully—well enough to be achieving A grades as a full-time college sophomore. We credit long-term antibiotics (including intravenous) for his recovery.

Some of his symptoms included near-daily severe migraines, profound fatigue, dizziness, joint pain, cognitive dysfunction/inability to read or study, severe insomnia, years of day-night reversal, tremors, and serious gastrointestinal problems requiring hospitalization.

His infection-to-diagnosis/antibiotic treatment delay was over one year. In the meantime, he consulted over 20 doctors and was extensively tested and evaluated with no answers. Numerous non-antibiotic prescription medications and “alternative” therapies were tried and found to be ineffective.

But after he began antibiotics, his improvement began, slowly and erratically, with over two years of IV antibiotics being the most effective. When he stopped antibiotics, he began to deteriorate. After six years, he was finally able to stop them without relapse.

Our insurance company only paid a fraction of the extraordinary expenses, because they labeled his treatments as “medically unnecessary.”

A Connecticut doctor diagnosed and treated him, but this doctor is a rarity in Connecticut and the nation. The Lyme disease diagnosis was subsequently confirmed by five additional doctors.

Due at least in part to harassment, persecution, and/or threats to licensure, doctors often “choose” to ignore Lyme disease as a diagnosis, and/or will not acknowledge nor treat persisting Lyme nor prescribe long-term antibiotics. Only ONE doctor in CT had the knowledge, experience and COURAGE to prescribe the antibiotic regimen that gave my son his life back. There is considerable scientific and anecdotal evidence to support this approach. Doctors should at least have the freedom to make informed decisions based on clinical experience; but with Lyme/tick-borne disease, legal protection is a prerequisite.

Please support Bill 6200. Thank you.

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